

June 5, 2005

Freedom Watch

Combined Forces Command - Afghanistan



***German Dingos roll through Kabul:
Provide safety for Afghan people.***

Page 8



Spc. Jerry Combes

Coalition soldiers stack ordnance in an area near Kandahar May 12. U.S. and Romanian soldiers along with members of the British Royal Air Force were involved in a joint effort to demolish 20,000 pounds of ordnance that was either confiscated during various cordon and search missions, or belonged to Coalition forces and was determined to be unusable.

Contents



(Left) A German soldier from Task Force One stands guard during a patrol in Kabul May 22 as a Dingo All Protected Vehicle rounds a turn along the route.

(Cover) A German soldier checks for traffic passing a Dingo while the gunner keeps an eye toward the front of the vehicle.

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Freedom Watch

Freedom Watch is the weekly publication of Combined Forces Command - Afghanistan.

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Public Affairs Officer - Col. James R. Yonts

Freedom Watch, an Army publication, is published each Sunday by the 20th Public Affairs Detachment at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. Printed circulation is 6,000 copies per week.

In accordance with AR 360-1, this Army newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military overseas.

Contents of the *Freedom Watch* are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the Department of the Army.

Deadline for submissions is 0730 Zulu each Friday. All submissions are subject to editing by the 20th Public Affairs Detachment, located in Bldg. 425, Room 107, Bagram Airfield. We can be reached at DSN 318-231-3338.

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FOB Orgun-E renamed

Afghan hero honored with ceremony

By Sgt. Douglas DeMaio
20th Public Affairs Detachment

FOB ANED, Afghanistan – U.S. forces in Orgun-E honored a fallen Afghan soldier May 18 by renaming the forward operating base to FOB Aned.

Commander Anaytullah, also known as Aned, who

like many Afghans has only one name, served as an interpreter with U.S. forces after the fall of the Taliban in 2001. By 2003, Aned had become an Afghan military officer and once again served alongside his U.S. counterparts.

"He was a patriot and a warrior," said Capt. Sean

Macrae, an operations officer for the 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, who worked with Aned during a tour of duty in 2002 with the 3rd Bn., 75th Ranger Regt. "He aspired for freedom, so to me (the renaming) is a great thing."

Aned was killed March 22

during an operation to capture Taliban commander Raz Mohammed.

Aned gave his life in defense of the free Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, said the 1-508's commander, Lt. Col. Timothy McGuire, during the dedication ceremony.

This FOB honors Aned and serves as a reminder to Afghans of his sacrifice, courage and willingness to better Afghanistan, McGuire said.

"Whenever we leave here, this may be an Afghan National Army division headquarters or a brigade headquarters, so how fitting for it to be named after an Afghan patriot who was fighting for their freedom," Macrae said.

According to Aned's biography, on October 25, 2003, near Khand Pass in south-east Paktika Province, a joint U.S. and Afghan patrol was ambushed by a substantial force of al-Qaida and Taliban fighters.

During the ensuing gun battle, Aned was struck in the chest. He continued to return fire, despite losing significant amounts of blood and fading in and out of consciousness.

As he was receiving medical treatment, Aned was struck two more times.

"The Taliban commanders and enemy commanders all knew who Commander Aned was," Macrae said. "He did not hide behind anything. He is a great example for all Afghans as far as not being afraid to stand up and do what is right."

FOB Aned is the first forward operating base to be named after an Afghan.

Military Police train ANP

By Sgt. 1st Class Curtis Matsushige
CJTF-76 Public Affairs

JALALABAD, Afghanistan – Soldiers of the 164th Military Police Company from Fort Richardson, Alaska, conducted a five-day refresher course for Afghanistan National Police last month.

Spc. Richard Buck and Pvt. Nick Hogan were the primary instructors and were assisted by interpreter Mr. Shaphoor.

The refresher course prepared police officers for civil disturbance situations. Topics included were crowd control, hostage situations, violent persons in public places and vehicle searches.

A typical day of training included classroom instruction followed by practical exercises. A morning tea break gave instructors and trainees a chance to sit down and review scenarios, discussing the positives and areas of improvements in an informal manner.

Officer Harzat Gul of the Afghan Security Forces said the refresher is a small part of the more rigorous training the police go through at their Regional Training Center.

The fifth day of training culminated with live-reaction scenarios that combined two or more of the drills covered during training and presentation of course-completion certificates.



Afghan National Police officers practice capturing and arresting a violent person. The scenario was part of a refresher course for the ANP in Jalalabad hosted by the 164th Military Police, from Fort Richardson, Alaska.

Border not clear for smugglers

Afghan TABSF captures drug traffickers with goods

By Sgt. Tara Teel
CJTF-76 Public Affairs

HERAT, Afghanistan – For the third time in just over a month, the 6th Brigade Transitional Afghan Border Security Forces stopped the smuggling of drugs across the Afghanistan-Iran border May 19.

TABSF added 144 kilos to the amount of drugs confiscated, bringing the total to 644 kilos confiscated at the border since April 19.

Bags of hashish and opium were

stuffed in the trunk of a white Toyota Corolla that was headed through the district of Ghoryan for Iran. TABSF acted on credible information and performed their first night operation.

The hashish amounted to 65 kilos and was hidden in 64 Maxwell House coffee wrappers. Seventy-nine kilos of opium were also concealed in 24 other bags and labeled with the recipients' names written on pieces of paper taped to the bags.

The two men in the vehicle were arrested and were to be transferred to the counter-narcotics police in

Herat. Two other men on motorcycles fled from the scene.

"Before I came, there was so much drugs, smuggling and corruption," said Col. Safe Aube, TABSF commander. "We are sending all the soldiers to the academy for training to teach them to serve their country right. We have pride in our country and what we do."

The drugs were transferred to the counter-narcotics police in Herat May 21.

The first bust April 19 uncovered 480 kilos of heroin and the second in early May captured 20 kilos of opium.



Soldiers with the 6th Brigade Transitional Afghan Border Security Forces load bags of opium to turn over to the Herat counter-narcotics police.

Afghan drug production fast facts

- More than 20,000 Americans die every year from drugs, and 7 percent to 10 percent of heroin sold in the U.S. is traced to the opium poppies grown in the Afghan region.
- An estimated 9 to 10 million abusers, roughly two-thirds of all opiate abusers in the world, consume illicit opium of Afghan origin.
- Approximately 131,000 hectares are dedicated to opium farming. This year Afghanistan has the highest amount of drug cultivation in the country's history and the largest in the world.
- Afghanistan produced 87 percent of the world's illicit opium this year, resulting in income to Afghan opium farmers and traffickers on the order of \$2.8 billion, a sum equivalent to 60 percent of the legitimate gross domestic product of the country.
- According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, from 2003 to 2004 Afghanistan experienced a 64 percent increase of cultivated opium poppy rising from 80,000 hectares to 131,000 hectares. Cultivation in the same time period spread to all 32 provinces in Afghanistan representing 2.9 percent of all cultivated land. The UNODC survey reports 2004 production of 4,200 metric tons of opium, an increase of nearly 900 metric tons over 2003.
- According to the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, Afghan poppy cultivation in 2004 was estimated at 206,700 hectares compared to 61,000 hectares in 2003, representing a 239 percent increase. The U.S. Government 2004 estimate, which uses different sources and methods than UNODC, is nearly 64 percent higher than the UNODC estimate for Afghan poppy cultivation.
- According to a 2002 DEA brief on the Burmese opium trade, roughly 7 to 15 metric tons of raw opium yield 1 metric ton of morphine base, which yields 1 metric ton of heroin. Thus, the UNODC estimate of 2004 opium production in Afghanistan of 4,200 metric

tons (4,950 tons by U.S. government estimates) could yield up to 600 metric tons of consumable heroin.

- Estimates show that approximately 356,000 families cultivate opium poppy in Afghanistan. This represents an increase of nearly 100,000 families over 2003. With an estimated average of six to seven members per family, this would represent a total population of about 2.3 million, or about 10 percent of the total population in Afghanistan.

(Editor's note: The statistics were compiled from U.S. government information posted on www.reform.house.gov.)



(Above) Bags of opium have the recipients' names marked on paper and taped. The Transitional Afghan Border Security Forces seized 79 kilos of opium and 65 kilos of hashish May 19 in western Afghanistan.



(Left) Members of the 6th Brigade Transitional Afghan Border Security Forces stand by the 144 kilos of drugs they seized May 19 during their first night operation.

Photos by Sgt. Tara Teel

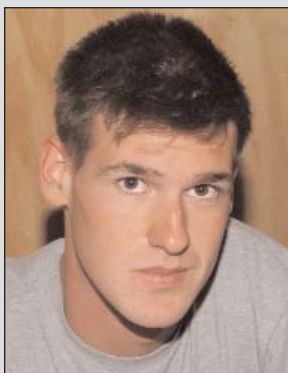
Enduring Voices

If your deployment was a movie, what movie would it be?



Army Staff Sgt. Miguel Anaya

A Company, 125th Military Intelligence
"Bad Boys"



Army Spc. Eric Johnson

A Company, 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment
"6 Days and 7 Nights."
Stranded some place with someone you don't want to be with for a very long time."



Army Sgt. Roylene Takishita

25th Division Artillery
"Private Benjamin"



Air Force Tech Sgt. Bryan Knight

Detachment 1, 4th Air Support Operations
"For me it would be 'Groundhog Day.' I don't get outside the wire much any more, so everyday seems to be the same."

New Zealand PRT provides governor's security during visit

**By Joint Forces New Zealand
Public Affairs Office**

KHAMARD DISTRICT, Afghanistan – Members of the New Zealand Provisional Reconstruction Team, based in Bamiyan Province, provided escort and security support to the newly appointed provincial governor, Habiba Sorabi, during her tour throughout the Khamard District May 2-3.

The NZ PRT assisted the Afghan National Police in providing security. Maj. Peter Nichols said, "This event enabled the New Zealand PRT and local police to work closely together in an important activity. It is activities such as this which help to cement a combined approach for Afghanistan's security."

The patrol selected for this task operates regularly within the district and maintains a presence through patrolling, assisting with security sector reform and capacity building with the local government.

"The governor was well received, with communities lining the sides of the street and clapping warmly as she passed through. She was greeted in the larger centers by crowds of up to 600 people and attended official proceedings within these centers," said Nichols.

"The warmth at which the governor was received is an indication that the democratic process is taking practical affect and this indicates great promise for Afghanistan's future."



Lt. Col. Greg Allnutt provides a security presence for newly appointed provincial governor Habiba Sorabi during a parade through a village in her district.

IED kills one Soldier, wounds three

By CJTF-76 Public Affairs

SHINKAY, Afghanistan – Coalition forces in southern Afghanistan reported that an improvised explosive device near Shinkay killed one U.S. Soldier and wounded three others May 21.

Two of the Soldiers were medically evacuated by helicopter to Kandahar for treatment. Pfc. Steven C. Tucker, 19, of Grapevine, Texas, died of his wounds at Kandahar.

The other Soldier received surgery for his wounds and was transferred to a U.S. medical facility in Landstuhl, Germany, for further treatment.

The two other Soldiers that were injured in the blast were evacuated from the scene by ground to a Coalition base near Qalat, in Zabul Province, for treatment. Both were listed in stable condition.

The Soldiers were traveling in an armored high mobility multi-purpose wheeled vehicle. All the Soldiers are assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade, Vicenza, Italy.

An investigation into the attack is underway.



Newly appointed provincial governor Habiba Sorabi meets with officials as New Zealand service members provide security in a patrol vehicle.

Paratroopers repel ambush

By Pfc. Jon Arguello
Task Force Bronco Public Affairs

DEY CHOPAN, Afghanistan – In an intensive week of successful combat operations, the 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment (Airborne), came away with several victories and tangible results demonstrating not just the warfighting capabilities of Task Force Rock's paratroopers, but their composure under fire.

As B Company was climbing mountains chasing insurgents and C Co. was securing a victory against anti-Coalition militia, a convoy carrying the battalion commander and command sergeant major was ambushed. A fierce firefight ensued that left one American injured and an unknown number of injured insurgents in Zabul Province.

"It was the worst I've seen in 22 years of service," said Command Sgt. Major Jeffrey Hartless, the battalion command sergeant major from Amherst, Va. "From the first Gulf War to my last deployment in Iraq, I've never been in a firefight like that."

The convoy was moving between units, and as the roads got rough, the vehicles became separated by more than 100 meters. At that point, the two parts of the convoy were attacked simultaneously by several rocket propelled grenades.

"I yelled, 'IED! IED!' but it was actually an RPG," Hartless said.

"Right after the command sergeant major said 'IED,' a hail of bullets came down," said Spc. Edwin Laboy-Cortes, from Fayetteville, N.C.

The paratroopers dismounted and were immediately fired upon by small arms and machine guns. Bullets ripped through the Humvee's roof, blowing out gauges and riddling the truck's interior frame with bullet holes.

"We got out of the vehicle and bullets were flying through it," said Hartless. "We didn't think of closing the doors until a

little later."

"I couldn't see the lead vehicle while we were engaged in our firefight," said Hartless. "Hankins was the closest to the door and I told him to get the handset."

Spc. Brian Hankins, from Martinez, Calif., jumped into the Humvee to retrieve the radio. Ten minutes into the firefight, the realization that communications between the vehicles were temporarily disrupted led Hartless to believe the worst.

"I couldn't get anybody on the radio. I thought they were all dead," he said.

The paratroopers were under heavy fire and everyone reacted with fire of their own. That exchange didn't allow for instant communication.

"The fire was so intense, it took everyone we had to fire," said scout Staff Sgt. Randall Austin from Glendale, Ariz. "It became shoot first and communicate later. We thought they were dead and they thought we were dead."

Soon, the convoy took a casualty, Capt. Benjamin Wright, from Metamora, Ill.

"I was behind the truck shooting next to Captain Wright and he stopped shooting back and moaned - then he turned to me and said 'I'm hit' and went down," said Laboy-Cortes. "I started treating him. He was coherent and calm the whole time."

Wright began calling in his own nine-line report. The nine-line, a radio report describing the injury and whether or not medical evacuation is necessary, was finished by Laboy-Cortes.

The flume of the incoming RPGs gave away the enemy's position. Staff Sgt. William Terry, from Montclair, N.J., put a barrage of fire from an MK19 automatic grenade launcher on the location, suppressing the enemy fire.

"I couldn't believe how well the Soldiers reacted to the ambush," Hartless said. "The ambush site was well planned and ranged, but the Soldiers were incredible."

"Wojo" was on it," said Austin, referring

to Spc. Thomas Wojtowicz. "Before I knew what was going, Wojo was firing the .50 cal and Walker was feeding him ammo. They went beyond my expectations."

"I saw the two explosions from the RPGs and I started firing," said Wojtowicz, from Chicago. "I knew what area the fire was coming from but I couldn't see anybody, so I'd light up that area and the fire would stop but it would start coming from another area."

No matter how much training the paratroopers have had, considering the circumstances of the ambush, the performance of the Soldiers was excellent.

"When I asked Hankins to get the radio, he didn't hesitate," said Hartless. "He dove into the Humvee with bullets flying into it and grabbed it without hesitation. The quick reaction by Laboy was also amazing. Even Captain Wright's response to his own injury was outstanding."

"I was worried but I knew I had the biggest gun out there so I had to keep it up," Wojtowicz said.

When the decision was made that the casualty had to be taken out of the kill zone, the sergeant major devised a plan to put the truck in reverse with the casualty inside, while Laboy-Cortes and the sergeant major would run along the truck for cover.

"It was the longest 100 meters of my life," Hartless said.

Eventually, contact was broken, close air support came and the enemy dissipated into the mountains with their wounded.

No matter how well they fended off the attack, Task Force Rock's paratroopers have a much better understanding of why it is important to stay alert.

"I take my job very seriously. I stay alert and pay attention to the details," said Wojtowicz.

"You really have to go out there and do what you're supposed to be doing," Austin explained. "They are dead set on killing us, but that's not going to happen."

Weapons Rack

The **G36 service rifle**, used by the German military, is a semi- and full-auto rifle that fires 5.56 mm NATO ammunition at 920 meters per second. It has a maximum effective range of 2,800 meters and can fire 750 rounds per minute. The rifle has two integral optics: a red-dot sight that is effective up to 200 meters, and a 3X telescopic sight that is effective up to 800 meters.



Dingo: a wild dog of a vehicle



Photos by Pfc. Vincent Fusco

By Pfc. Vincent Fusco
20th Public Affairs Detachment

KABUL, Afghanistan – Three Dingos, a type of armored vehicle, transport two squads of German soldiers through the busy streets of Kabul May 22 with the agility of a sport utility vehicle.

The Dingo is a multi-purpose vehicle used for military and peacekeeping operations and has been in use in Afghanistan since 2002.

It is an air-transportable, armored, mine-proof vehicle designed for high mobility in any type of terrain.

"The Dingo can transport personnel, ammunition, supplies, whatever we need," said German 1st Sgt. Frank Bode, a noncommissioned officer from 2nd Company, 421st Grenadier Battalion, in Brandenburg, Germany, now serving at Camp Warehouse with Task Force One.

The vehicle has a 270 horsepower diesel engine, an eight-gear transmission, and can theoretically drive forward and backward at the same speed, said Bode.

It travels at speeds up to 100 kph, has a range of 1,000 kilo-

meters, and is air transportable by C-130 and C-160 aircraft and CH-47 Chinook helicopter.

"The Dingo is an important vehicle for us because we're very flexible and fast with our mission," said Bode.

Protection from mines, improvised explosive devices and enemy fire is essential for the Dingo to complete ambulance, reconnaissance and force

protection missions.

An armored cage protects the passengers, engine compartment, fuel tank and cargo bay from light and anti-tank weapons.

An oblique blast deflector floor provides the crew protection against heavy anti-tank, explosive-formed penetration and anti-personnel mines.

The mine-safe cabin is formed so



(Above) A gunner's view from atop a Dingo All Protective Vehicle shows two Dingoes ahead during movement through Kabul May 22.

(Top) A machine-gunner in a Dingo scans the hazy Kabul sprawl spread out beyond his position May 21.

pressure from a mine blast is directed away from the cabin. Special locks hold the doors in place, and footrests in the cabin provide extra protection in case of a mine blast.

To keep rear security, a camera mounted behind the vehicle has an internal monitor the driver can see.

The overhead-mounted 7.62 mm machine gun has electronic controls and can be controlled from inside the vehicle. The top of the vehicle can also accommodate a 40 mm grenade launcher.

"It's very important for us to be combat ready and efficient at night when we have the most enemy contact," said Bode.

When out in the field, the vehicle is a good addition to the Wiesel, a small and fast German tank with night vision, antitank rockets and 20 mm machine gun.

It is also helpful during patrols with the Fuchs (fox), an armored six-

wheeled vehicle that can navigate difficult terrain and water.

While German forces have many of those vehicles here, all of these vehicles are necessary to complete mission objectives and guarantee a safe environment for Afghanistan, said Bode.

The German Army has ordered 145 Dingo vehicles for its rapid deployment units currently operating in Kosovo, Macedonia, and Afghanistan.

Defense Update, an international online defense magazine, provided some information for this article.



A Dingo follows a convoy through Kabul during a foot patrol through the city.



German soldiers keep guard around their Dingo at an intersection in Kabul during a convoy May 21. The Dingo's machine-gunner provides security to the left of the vehicle while the foot soldier observes traffic to the right.

ID card security

Protecting these documents guards you; it also protects our bases and families

By Sgt. Adrian Schulte
CJTF-76 Public Affairs

Operational security is drilled into service members' minds on a regular basis, especially in a combat environment. Besides watching the content of e-mail sent back home and being careful of what is said on the phone, keeping accountability of security badges and military identification is one of the most important - and easy ways - to ensure personnel and sensitive information are secure.

From January to April of this year, over 170 military IDs, including flight-line and Joint Operation Center badges, were reported missing on Bagram Airfield, according to Capt. Seamus Garret, 13th Military Police Company commander.

The majority of those reported stolen are military IDs.

The loss of a military ID can result in administrative action, including non-judicial punishment, from the service member's chain of command, Garret said.

"The loss of a military ID has a direct impact on force-protection operations at Coalition facilities across the [theater]," said Garret. "Additionally, if a military ID leaves the theater in the hands of a terrorist group, we potentially expose other Department of Defense installations worldwide to attacks."

The majority of larcenies reported to the provost marshal's office involve wallets unsecured in common areas, said Garret.

"Someone who is steal-

ing cash from you will not take the time to open the wallet and remove money. They will simply take it all and dispose of what they don't want later," he said.

Garret has several suggestions to ensure IDs don't get lost.

- Keep your ID on you at all times or secured in a safe place.
- Do not leave IDs unsecured in places like the gym or shower facilities.
- Do not leave your ID with your wallet or personal belongings unsecured or unattached.

Keeping your ID secured will ensure military information and personnel remain secure not only in Afghanistan but across the world.

Ambush turns deadly for 12 enemy in Gayan

By CJTF-76 Public Affairs Office

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Twelve insurgents were reported killed by U.S. warplanes after they attacked a Coalition patrol east of Gayan, in Paktika Province, May 21. One U.S. Soldier was wounded during the incident.

The incident started when a group of four insurgents crossed the border into Afghanistan from Pakistan and attacked the patrol with small arms near the eastern city of Gayan.

The unit returned fire and the insurgents fled the area, meeting up with a group of eight other individuals a short distance away. U.S. warplanes responded to the attack and coordinated with Soldiers on the ground. After the fighting, the Coalition reported killing all twelve insurgents.

"Insurgent forces continue to attempt to disrupt Coalition security efforts and to derail the government of Afghanistan's efforts at rebuilding this nation," said Lt. Col. Jerry O'Hara, Combined Joint Task Force-76 public affairs officer. "Coalition and Afghan forces are sending a clear message...that we will meet their attempts head on. The people of Afghanistan have spoken, time and time again, that they do not wish to return to the brutal and oppressive era of the past."

The U.S. Soldier reported wounded during the attack received medical treatment at the site and returned to duty.



Cpl. Dong Youp Kim

Coalition forces carry paper lanterns during the light parade held by Republic of Korea armed forces along Disney Drive on Bagram Airfield for Buddha's birthday May 15. The lanterns are made to spread Buddha's love and mercy to the dark places of the world. Many of the lanterns were hand-made by Korean service members here and inscribed with family members' names. Doing this is believed to bring luck to the family of the lantern's maker. Buddha is believed to have been born 2,549 years ago.

Information leads to one death, arrest of three IED facilitators

By CJTF-76 Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – A raid to capture improvised explosive device facilitators near Khowst city May 16 by Afghan and Coalition forces resulted in the capture of three IED facilitators. One of the three was a known remote-controlled improvised explosive device facilitator.

The three IED facilitators were detained in a series of compounds after Coalition forces were led to their locations by a local informant.

An Afghan man was killed in the raid after he ignored both a verbal warning from an interpreter and a warning shot from Coalition forces. The man was in the home of the known IED facilitator when he was killed.

Coalition forces made every attempt to limit the use of force to stop the man's threatening actions. Coalition forces reported that as they entered the house the man was told through an interpreter to stop but he continued to act aggressively by moving toward a container atop a dresser. As he continued, a warning shot was fired in hopes of convincing the man to cease his actions. He continued to move toward the container and a Coalition soldier, feeling threatened by his actions, shot and killed the man.

Regional Command East leadership met with local religious leaders and political officials to discuss the incident. A civil and military affairs team was also sent to the village to offer assistance.

Khowst city has been the scene of a number of IED and other attacks in recent weeks, causing a heightened sense of awareness for forces operating there.

The incident is under investigation by Coalition officials.

1-508th PIR assists Afghan Security Forces under siege

By Sgt. Douglas DeMaio
20th Public Affairs Detachment

FOB BERMEL, Afghanistan – A battle erupted in the Bermel District just miles away from the newly built Forward Operating Base Bermel May 10.

Shortly after midnight, a patrol from A Company, 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, was on its way back to FOB Bermel when they saw explosions and a firefight between Afghan Security Forces and anti-Coalition militants on a nearby mountainside.

"We triangulated the position with our azimuth-direction and distance, and the azimuth and distance from FOB Bermel. We realized it was our ASF brothers under fire,"

said Staff Sgt. Darren Hiller, weapons squad leader. "We rolled back here, got the rest of our platoon, suited up, rolled out the gate and went out there."

When the infantrymen arrived in the area, they entered the ongoing battle.

"The very first firefight was really intense," Hiller said. "It was just a nonstop firefight. It lasted a good 30 to 45 minutes."

Afghan National Army and U.S. forces took strategic positions in the surrounding terrain.

"We moved with speed, got on the hilltop and got the higher ground," said squad leader Staff Sgt. William Gokey. "My team did an excellent job and was cool under fire."

Back at the FOB, field artillery was firing

See ASF page 13

Religious Services Around the CJOA

Camp Eggers

Sunday
0330 Protestant Worship
0430 Roman Catholic Mass (US Embassy)
0630 Protestant Worship
1430 "Praise" Worship
1530 Small Group Bible Study
Monday
1430 Scripture Study
1530 "Refuge" Music Practice
Wednesday
1400 "40 Days of Purpose"
1530 "Refuge" Music Practice
Friday
0330 "Refuge" Music Practice
0830 Latter Day Saints Service
1000 Men's/Women's Fellowship
1430 "The Living Room" Coffee House Ministry
Saturday
1130 Roman Catholic Mass

Camp Phoenix

Sunday
0430 - Catholic (Italian)
0530 - Non-Denominational Prot.
1330 - Catholic (French)
1530 - Non-Denominational Prot.
Tuesday
1430 - Bible Study
Wednesday
1430 - Gospel Bible Study
Saturday
1430 - Gospel Worship Service

FOB Salerno

Sunday
0300 - Foundations Bible Class
0400 - Traditional Prot. Worship
0530 - Catholic Mass
0730 - Latter-Day Saints
0830 - Gospel Service
1400 - Inspirational Movie Night
Saturday
1500 - Contemporary Prot.

Bagram Airfield

Sunday
0400 - Liturgical Prot.
0530 - Roman Catholic Mass
0830 - Latter-Day Saints
0700 - Traditional Prot.
1115 - Korean Language Prot.
1300 - Gospel Service
Monday
1400 - Gospel Choir Rehearsal
Tuesday
1400 - Gospel Bible Study
1545 - Prot. Music Rehearsal
Wednesday
1600 - Catholic Music Rehearsal
Thursday
1430 - Gospel Choir Rehearsal
Friday
1430 - Jewish Prayer
1500 - Women's Bible Study
Saturday
0500 - Seventh-Day Adventist
1330 - Korean Choir Rehearsal
1515 - Roman Catholic Mass
1630 - Prot. Choir Rehearsal
Daily, Monday-Friday
0700 - Roman Catholic Mass
0745 - Noon-Day prayer

Kandahar Airfield

Sunday
0330 - Protestant Service
0500 - Catholic Mass
0600 - Protestant Service (SF Comp. Chapel)
0600 - Orthodox Service (Romanian Orth. Chapel)
0630 - Protestant Service
0830 - Latter Day Saint Services
1430 - Gospel Service
Monday - Friday
0700 - Catholic Mass (When Available)
Wednesday
1530 - Protestant Mid-Week Service
Friday
1430 - Jewish Sabbath Service
1530 - Egyptian Coptic Christian Service
Saturday
1330 - Protestant Service
1530 - Catholic Mass

* All times
Zulu/GMT

King of Battle: FOB Salerno artillery provides support for maneuver elements

By Spc. Laura E. Griffin
CTF Thunder Public Affairs

FOB SALERNO, Afghanistan – Most people have never felt anything like it in their life. For a split second, you can't breathe. You can't see. You might even fall over ... and that isn't even the strongest charge.

The power of the 155 mm M198 howitzer is awesome in every sense of the word. It is that power that makes C Battery, 3rd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, the "King of Battle" at Forward Operating Base Salerno.

"The artillery is called the 'King of Battle' because the infantry merely occupies the land, but artillery preps that land before the infantry arrives so they have less resistance when they're actually there," said Sgt. 1st Class William A. Covey, a platoon sergeant in C Battery.

"It's hard for the infantry to function in their job without the artillery. Just like the mortars, we're another asset for the maneuver commanders to use, and when used wisely, we're very effective,"

said Covey.

Putting the howitzer's power to use starts with a call from the forward observers in the field.

"The forward observers call in on the radio; they tell us where they want us to shoot," said Sgt. Lawrence F. Scheck, a field artillery tactical data systems spe-

cialist in the battery. "Basically, we put that information into our advanced field artillery tactical data system computer, along with what kind of rounds we're shooting, where we're shooting, who's shooting and who's calling it in. It computes that data and gives us actual firing data to send down to the guns."

the round and takes the extra powder increments to the rear. The ammunition team chief maintains accountability of the ammunition, prepares the ammunition for firing and cuts the powder into the required increments.

The assistant gunner adjusts the elevation of the howitzer tube.

The gunner adjusts the tube left or right. Finally, the section chief verifies the fuse, round, charge, and gunner's data and gives the command to fire.

The distance the round travels depends on the size of the charge that is loaded behind the round. The charges range in size from the Charge 8 Super to the Charge 5.

"The Charge 8 Super fires the greatest distance," said Spc. Richard A. Stephens, the ammunition team chief of C Battery's gun number four.

"I like firing," said Spc. James H. Reeves, the "number 1 man" on gun number four, adding that he particularly likes firing the Charge 8 Super.

"It's probably the most exciting thing I've done here because of the power of the charge and the limits it puts the gun through," said Reeves. "It actually makes the breach, the closure that I load the round in, touch the ground, and it shows you what the max power of that gun can do."

Spc. Paul M. Crandall, the "number 2 man" on gun number four, is also impressed by the Charge 8 Super.

"If you're looking directly at the cannon when it fires the Charge 8 Super, your eyes will have a red-out for half a second," said Crandall. "It's from the shockwave from the cannon; you can actually feel it hit your body."

When the mission is over, the guns quiet and the earth stops shaking in Salerno.

"That's the life of the field artillery. We sit around and wait for the bad guys to pop up, and then we put them down," said Covey. "We don't always get a real clear battle damage assessment, but we know when the bosses come down here and say, 'Hey, good shooting,' that's all we need."



A 155 mm Medium Towed M198 howitzer belonging to C Battery, 3rd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, sends a round downrange May 13 from Forward Operating Base Salerno, Afghanistan.



Pfc. Josh L. Burnett, a "number 3 man" for C Battery, loads a round into a 155 mm Medium Towed M198 howitzer.

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They call the forward observers when they fire and the observers give them feedback to adjust fire. Adjusting fire is done with just one gun, said Scheck. While adjusting that gun, the other guns follow along on the radio so they know what's going on and where to shoot when the call comes to "fire for effect" - when all the guns shoot at the same time.

Getting those tubes on target and sending rounds downrange takes the carefully orchestrated teamwork of at least seven people.

The "number 1 man" loads the round and propellant, primes the weapon and pulls the lanyard. The "number 2 man" lifts the loading tray with the round on it, carries the empty tray back and puts the next round on the tray.

The "number 3 man" helps load

Road construction drives on

Connection from Tarin Kowt to Kandahar ahead of schedule

Compiled by
Sgt. 1st Class Todd Oliver
CJTF-76 Public Affairs

TARIN KOWT, Afghanistan – Creating the first road to directly connect the remote city of Tarin Kowt with the southern city of Kandahar is a monumental task no matter how you look at it.

No one knows that better though than Soldiers of Task Force Sword – the engineers of the Combined Joint Task Force-76.

"Everything has to be trucked or flown in," said Sgt. Maj. Scott Walden, Task Sword's operations sergeant major. "The areas through which this road is being constructed are so remote that many of the items our Soldiers need have to be flown in."

The Soldiers are responsible for the road's "bottom half." They make sure the area where the asphalt will be laid is level, that water on it drains and that there are culverts alongside it to handle runoff rain or melted snow.

"The number of Soldiers we have working on the project changes," he said. "Right now it's probably about half a battalion of engineers. They're mostly horizontal construction experts and they ensure the road is level, they install the road's subbase, they ensure it has proper

drainage and that there are culverts along side of it."

Walden said that the U.S. Agency for International Development will add an asphalt-like substance after his unit completes their work.

In addition to the normal duties of road construction, the unit is "in the middle of nowhere," forcing them to provide all their own life-support.

"Because of their remote location they have to do all the things most other units take for granted," said Walden. "They have to provide their own security, maintain their own equipment and even feed themselves.

When something breaks, we have to truck it up from Kandahar or fly it in."

The road was originally projected to be complete around February 2006, but the decision was made to finish the project before the September elections.

"Pretty soon we'll have almost an entire battalion working on it. It's going to be a great thing for Afghanistan," said Walden. "It will be the only lifeline between the Uruzgan and Kandahar provinces. It's going to be a nice road... wide with two lanes, and it will easily cut the driving time in half between Uruzgan and Kandahar."

From page 11 ASF

illumination rounds over the area, which turned the firefight into sporadic gun battles throughout the area.

As the illumination rounds popped off over the area, the infantrymen fired and moved into positions to corral the ACM into a trap.

"We had the air assets and were trying to drive the ACM in a certain direction right back in to our line of fire," Hiller

said. "Sergeant Gokey's team was up on the ridge and we had our mortars up there and a MK19 (grenade machine gun) up there. They had a really good rate of fire."

"We had a lot of different levels working together and it worked really well."

Once the battle seemed to be over, the ACM came back to retrieve their dead, Hiller said. "That is when everyone lit into them again," he said.

It was not known how many ACM were actually killed during the battle. The attack by the ACM against the ASF compound was well planned out, Hiller said.

"They knew where to hit them," he said "They had done their homework on the compound. We found maps."

At morning's light, the actions of the night accounted for nine ACM captured.

"I'll take that any day of the week," Hiller said.

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD



Marines from the 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment. carry out a successful mission with the Afghan National Army during Operation Celtics in Nangarhar Province May 23.

Spc. Harold Fields
Combat Camera

If you have high-quality photos of service members supporting the Coalition mission or enjoying well-deserved off-duty time, please e-mail them to freedomwatch@baf.af.mil. Please include full identification and caption information, including who is in the photo and what action is taking place.

Soldier shot during ambush, reenlists while recovering

By Pfc. Jon Arguello
Task Force Bronco Public Affairs

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – A paratrooper from the 173rd Combat Support Company reenlisted May 19 as he sat in bed with a bullet hole in his left foot.

The combat engineer attached to Task Force Rock was shot in the foot during a patrol with B Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment.

"We were on a patrol when we heard gunfire," said Spc. Aaron Pace, from Bentonville, Ark. "I dove behind a rock and that's when the bullet hit me."

However, even a bullet couldn't deter Pace from reenlisting.

"I already had my mind made up," he said. "I love being a combat engineer."

Pace is exactly the type of Soldier the Army needs, said 1st Sgt. Lauro Obeada.

"He's everything a combat engineer needs to be," Obeada said. "He's tough, determined and smart. Nothing makes me happier than knowing he's decided to stay in our company."

Pace said the bullet didn't affect his decision at all.

"I love the job," explained Pace. "Getting shot at is part of the job but I still love it."

Pace was the only casualty on the patrol and was treated quickly, he said.

"They were telling me 'you're gonna be okay' and I said, 'I know, it's my foot,'" Pace said. "To be honest, it felt like a paint ball hitting my foot. I'm not saying I ever want to get shot again, but it didn't hurt as much as I thought it would."

Obeada said, "It really brings it home that we're at war. It makes it that much more meaningful that he reenlisted. We need more Soldiers like Pace in the Army."

Bicycle awareness: share the road

By Pfc. Vincent Fusco
20th Public Affairs Detachment

When going on convoys, service members may have to drive through crowded towns where pedestrians and cyclists will be sharing the road with the vehicles.

To help avoid an accident, it's important to maintain situational awareness and communication between drivers.

Passengers should act as a second, third or fourth pair of eyes for convoy drivers and relay information about

who may be walking or riding too close to the vehicle. A driver may not be able to

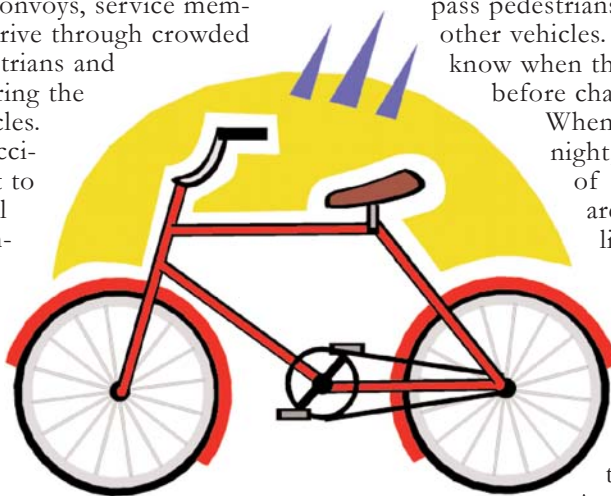
look in all directions around the vehicle at once. Communication is especially important when changing lanes to

pass pedestrians, cyclists or other vehicles. A driver must know when the way is clear before changing lanes.

When traveling at night, try to be aware of the surrounding area while keeping light discipline in mind.

Remember, Afghan cyclists may not always be wearing reflective safety gear.

Accident prevention begins with awareness. Maintaining awareness is everybody's job.



Dari/Pashtu phrase of the week



Afghan cultural tidbit

Dari/Pashtu phrase of the week:

You're welcome

Dari

Kabele tash akur neist
(kah-beh-lee tash-ah-kure nest)

Pashtu

Panua na leiri
(pah-noo-ah nah leir-ee)

While Afghans appreciate American freedoms and opportunities, they reject many aspects of the American way of life. In particular, they are shocked by what they see as the lack of hospitality and proper courtesy toward guests; in Afghanistan, for a child not to greet a guest would be a serious breach of manners.

(Source: <http://www.culturalorientation.net/afghan/aeco.html>)

New law to affect SGLI

Increased coverage will affect premiums

By Donna Miles
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Defense and Veterans Affairs officials are ironing out details of programs that will expand benefits provided through Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance.

The \$82 billion supplemental legislation signed into law by President Bush May 11 increases maximum SGLI coverage to \$400,000 and provides payouts of up to \$100,000 for service members with traumatic injuries, explained Stephen Wurtz, the VA's deputy assistant director for insurance.

The increased SGLI coverage will take effect Sept. 1, and the so-called "traumatic SGLI" benefit December 1. Wurtz said the legislation directs that both benefits will be retroactive to Oct. 7, 2001.

Traumatic SGLI benefits will be retroactive for troops who have lost limbs, eyesight or speech or received other traumatic injuries as a direct result of injuries received during Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom. The benefit does not apply to servicemembers suffering from disease.

The retroactive coverage increase is payable as a result of deaths in either operation, or under other conditions prescribed by the secretary of defense, Wurtz said.

Servicemembers enrolled in the SGLI program will notice an increase in their premiums when the increases take effect. The traumatic SGLI benefit will be rolled into the basic SGLI program and will likely cost about \$1 a month,

Wurtz said.

Troops opting for maximum SGLI coverage – \$400,000 vs. the current \$250,000 – will see their monthly premiums increase from \$16.25 to \$26, Wurtz said. This is based on the rate of 6.5 cents per \$1,000 of insurance coverage.

SGLI coverage is currently available in \$10,000 increments, but as of Sept. 1, the increments will increase to \$50,000.

Because the rates have not changed, servicemembers who retain \$250,000 or less coverage will see no increase in their premiums, Wurtz said, except for the \$1 "traumatic SGLI" premium.

While these expanded benefits will be provided retroactively, affected servicemembers won't be charged retroactive payments, he said. DoD will absorb that cost.

In a new twist introduced through the supple-

mental legislation, troops with dependents must get their spouse's approval to purchase less than the full amount of SGLI coverage. In the case of members who are not married, notice will be provided to the designated beneficiary when the member purchases less than the maximum coverage.

The new traumatic SGLI benefit is designed to provide "a quick infusion of cash" for cash-strapped families of troops recuperating from traumatic injuries received in the line of duty,

Wurtz said.

Compensation will range from \$25,000 to \$100,000, and is designed to help families of severely wounded troops leave their homes and jobs to be with their loved one during recovery. "These families incur a lot of expenses, and this is designed to help them financially," Wurtz said.

While VA staff members consult with DoD to write regulations that will put the new SGLI benefits into effect, Wurtz said, "lots and lots of details have to be worked out."

Among outstanding issues is the fact that the expanded SGLI coverage is part of the supplemental legislation package that funds operations only through Sept. 30. That's 30 days after the new SGLI limit takes effect and two months before the traumatic SGLI benefit begins.

Wurtz said VA is confident Congress will resolve this issue before there's any lapse in coverage.

VA will continue to oversee and control the SGLI program.

Afghan police turn in cache

By CJTF-76 Public Affairs Office

GHAZNI, Afghanistan – Local police turned in a large cache of unstable ammunition to the 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, near Ghazni May 19.

"These munitions are incredibly dangerous and volatile," said Master Sgt. Albert Schneider, Combined Joint Task Force 76's Explosive Ordnance Disposal team noncommissioned officer in charge.

"When they are stored in non-climate-controlled environments and they are not properly handled, they can pose a huge risk to nearby communities. Further, these items can be used in the construction of improvised explosive devices, which are indiscriminate killers.

"That police and Afghans are turning these items into us is not surprising - they realize the dangers they represent," said Schneider.

The cache, consisted of more than 450 rocket-propelled grenades and 36 recoilless rifle rounds, was determined to be unstable and was transported to a safe location for destruction by EOD personnel.

Freedom Watch

June 5, 2005

Battles are sometimes won by
generals; wars are nearly always
won by sergeants and privates.

F.E. Adcock,
British classical scholar